Pile (singer)

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Eriko Hori (堀 絵梨子, *Hori Eriko*, born May 2, 1988),[2] better known by her stage name **Pile**, is a Korean–Japanese singer, actress and voice actress from Tokyo. Her first roles were minor parts in TV series and films during 2006. She debuted as a singer after she was selected in a 2006 Japan-wide audition and she made her voice acting debut in the *Love Live! School Idol Project* series in 2010.

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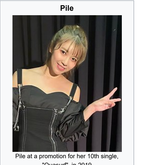
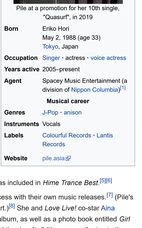


Pile



Pile at a promotion for her 10th single, "Quasurf", in 2019

Born	Eriko Hori May 2, 1988 (age 33) Tokyo, Japan
Occupation	Singer · actress · voice actress
Years active	2005–present
Agent	Spacey Music Entertainment (a division of Nippon Columbia)[3]
Musical career	
Genres	J-Pop · anison
Instruments	Vocals
Labels	Colorful Records · Lantis Records
Website	pile.asia

Musical career [edit source]

In 2006, Hori was chosen from a total of 700 applicants in the Japan-wide Asian Dolls Audition. She later wrote that she wanted to be seen as "warm and enveloping, an artist who can be loved by everyone".[3] so she chose her stage name *Pile* after the pile towels are made from.[4] In October 2007, she debuted as a singer with the indie single "Your is All...",[1] this song was the opening theme for the third season of the drama TV series *Ikari Oyaji Ai no Sekki Youtaikyoku*.[5] In 2008, two of her songs were included in Dancemania albums, including "Flower", which was included in *Hime Trance Best*.[5][6]

Following several *Love Live!* releases reaching the top of the Oricon charts, Pile and her co-stars have had more success with their own music releases.[7] (Pile's second solo single, *Cherish*, *Love Live! Solo Live! from μ's Scarlet Princess*, reached #31 on the Oricon Albums Chart.)[8] She and *Love Live!* co-star Aina Kusuda (the voice of Nozomi Tojo) formed a duo, Please&Secret, in 2013.[9] They have released two singles and an album, as well as a photo book entitled *Girl Meets Girl*.[10][11] In June 2014, she and another *Love Live!* voice actress Riho Iida (the voice of Rin Hoshizora) formed the duo 4to6 (the name referring to the time between the end of classes and returning home in Japanese schools), and their first single was released in August 2014.[12][13][14]

In 2014, Pile released her first single for the Victor Entertainment label, "Densetsu no FLARE",[15][16] which was used as an ending theme for the anime series *Tenkai Knights*.[17] Her first album for a major label, *Jewel Vox*, was released on the Tower Records label in March 2015.[18] Her second single for a major label, "Kimi ga Kureta KISEKI", served as the ending theme to the anime series *Duel Masters VSR*.[19] Pile made an appearance at the Cosplay Mania anime convention in Manila, Philippines in October 2015.[20] Her single "Dream Trigger" served as the ending theme for the second season of the anime series *World Trigger*.[21] She embarked on an Asian tour in 2017, with stops in Singapore, Bangkok, and Kuala Lumpur.[22] She released a compilation album titled *The Best of Pile* on August 16, 2018.[23]

Acting career [edit source]

In 2005, Hori appeared as a minor character in the TV series *† Litre no Namida*, and in 2006 she appeared in *Karera no Umi Vii*.[24] and the films *Ōkoku*, *Shiroi Asa no Koi*, and *Tokyo Real*.[5]

In 2010, Pile made her voice acting debut for ASCII Media Works' *Love Live!* project, as Maki Nishikino. Maki is one of the main characters of the series, a member of the idol group μ's. Pile has featured in her role in a two-season anime television series, anime music videos, CDs, rhythm games, and an animated film, among others.[7] She is also part of a sub-unit within the *Love Live!* project, BiBi, alongside Yoshino Nanjō (Eli Ayase) and Sora Tokui (Nico Yazawa).[25] The voice actresses who played members of μ's put on four live concerts between 2013 and 2014, including at Saitama Super Arena,[26] and toured Japan in 2015.[27] She also voiced Frunetti Renzuka in the 2013 video game *The Guided Fate Paradox*[28][29] as part of a partnership with *Love Live!*, credited as Maki Nishikino (Cv: Pile).[30][31] She is the voice of Cinderella in the 2014 *pachislot* video game *Cinderella Blade 2*.[32]

Her *Love Live!* role has attracted attention to Pile, and created a large base of fans for her.[33] The idol news site *GirlsNews* called her "currently the most talked-about singer/seiyuu" after the second season of the anime series.[15]

Personal life [edit source]

Hori was born and grew up in Tokyo, where she went to Shinagawa Women's Academy in Shinagawa Ward for middle school and high school.[24] She attended a college in Tokyo.[34] Her father is Japanese and her mother is Korean.[24][35] She is fluent in Korean and proficient in English. She studied ballet, hip-hop, jazz dance while in high school, as well as baton twirling and theater.[24]

Discography [edit source]

See also: Love Live! § Music

Singles [edit source]

- "Your is All..." (24 October 2007)[1]
- "Eternal" (digital-only release, 2007)[5]
- "Flower" (digital-only release, 2008)[5]
- "Love&Joy" (digital-only release, 2009)[5]
- "Densetsu no Flare" (3 December 2014), #88 on Oricon Singles Chart[36]
- "Kimi ga Kureta Kiseki" (22 April 2015), #15 on Oricon Singles Chart[37]
- "Dream Trigger" (4 November 2015), #7 on Oricon Singles Chart
- "Melody" (18 May 2016), #8 on Oricon Singles Chart
- "Subarashiki Sekai" (28 December 2016), #8 on Oricon Singles Chart
- "Kizuna Hero" (16 August 2017), #23 on Oricon Singles Chart
- "BJ" (2 May 2018)

Albums [edit source]

- *Pile Lovely Box* (dōjin release, 29 December 2013)[38]
- *Pile Lovely Box 2* (dōjin release, 15 August 2014)
- *Jewel Vox* (4 March 2015),[18] #19 on Oricon Albums Chart[39]
- *PILE* (16 March 2016), #12 on Oricon Albums Chart[40]
- *Tailwind(s)* (26 April 2017), #14 on Oricon Albums Chart[41]

Collaborations [edit source]

Please&Secret (with Aina Kusuda)

Singles:

- "O.P.E.N Fantasy" (18 September 2013), #42 on Oricon Singles Chart[42]
- "Kimi no Kokoro ni..." (16 April 2014), #23 on Oricon Singles Chart[43]
- "Ashita e Saku Hana" (14 December 2014), #22 on Oricon Singles Chart[44]

Album:

- *Anniversary* (25 March 2015)

4to6 (with Riho Iida)

Singles:

- "Watashi no Tokei wa Gyakukaiten!" (20 August 2014), #29 on Oricon Singles Chart[45]

Filmography [edit source]

Anime television series [edit source]

- *Love Live!* (2013), Maki Nishikino[46]
- *Love Live! Second Season* (2014), Maki Nishikino[47]
- *World Trigger* (2014), Kokoa Takeda
- *Kochinpa!* (2015), Aira
- *King's Game The Animation* (2017), Ria Iwamura

OVAs [edit source]

- *Snow halation* (2010), Maki Nishikino
- *Natsuiro egao de 1,2,Jump!* (2011), Maki Nishikino
- *Mo gyutto "love" de sekkinchu* (2012), Maki Nishikino
- *Wonderful Rush* (2012), Maki Nishikino
- *Music S.T.A.R.T!!* (2013), Maki Nishikino

Anime films [edit source]

- *Love Live! The School Idol Movie* (2015), Maki Nishikino[27]

Live-action TV series [edit source]

- *† Litre no Namida* (2005), student[5]
- *Karera no Umi Vii* (2006)

Live-action films [edit source]

- *Ōkoku* (2006)
- *Shiroi Asa no Koi* (2006)
- *Tokyo Real* (2006), clerk[5]

Video games [edit source]

- *Love Live! School Idol Festival* (2013), Maki Nishikino[48]
- *The Guided Fate Paradox* (2013) Frunetti Renzuka (Credited as "Maki Nishikino" (Pile))[28]
- *Love Live! School Idol Paradise*, (2013), Maki Nishikino[25]
- *Cinderella Blade 2* (2014), Cinderella[32]
- *Rage of Bahamut* (2015), Lidi

See also [edit source]

- List of Japanese voice actors of foreign descent

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5. ^ a b c d e f g h "Profile". *Pile Official Website* (in Japanese). Pile. Retrieved 12 October 2014.
6. ^ "HIME TRANCE (姫トランス) : Track Listing". *Dance Groove*. Retrieved 4 October 2014.
7. ^ a b "アニメ『ラブライブ！』Solo Live! from μ's 西木野真姫 (Pile) SCARLET PRINCESS". *Oricon Style* (in Japanese). Oricon. 2014. Retrieved 22 September 2014.
8. ^ "[Anime] Everything Love Live!". *AFA Channel*. Anime Festival Asia. 18 June 2013. Archived from the original on 3 September 2014. Retrieved 3 September 2014.
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43. ^ "Please&Secret きみのこころに…"◆. *Oricon Style* (in Japanese). Oricon. 2014. Retrieved 7 September 2014.
44. ^ "あしたへ咲く花"◆. *Oricon Style* (in Japanese). Oricon. Retrieved 18 December 2014.
45. ^ "私の時計は逆回転！（生産限定盤）"◆. *Oricon Style* (in Japanese). Oricon. 2014. Retrieved 22 September 2014.
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External links [edit source]

- Official blog◆ (in Japanese)
- Official website◆ (in Japanese)
- Pile◆ at Anime News Network's encyclopedia

V · T · E	***Love Live!*** [hide]
Series	*School Idol Project* (episodes - *The School Idol Movie*) · *Sunshine!!* (episodes) · *Nijigasaki High School Idol Club* · *Superstar!!*
Staff	Hajime Yatate (creator) · Sakurako Kimino (concept) · Yūhei Murata (character design) · Aki Hata (lyricist)
Members	**Main groups** μ's · Aqours · Nijigasaki High School Idol Club · Liella!
	Rival groups A-Rise · Saint Snow
Media	Episodes · Discography ("Snow Halation") · *School Idol Festival* (*After School Activity* · *All Stars*)
See also	Bandai Namco Holdings (Bandai Namco Arts (Lantis) · Sunrise) · Bushiroad · Kadokawa Corporation (ASCII Media Works)
	Category

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Categories: 1988 births | Living people | Anime singers | English-language singers from Japan | Japanese actresses of Korean descent | Japanese video game actresses | Japanese voice actresses | Lantis (company) artists | Korean-language singers of Japan | M's members | Nippon Columbia artists | Singers from Tokyo | Victor Entertainment artists | Voice actresses from Tokyo | 21st-century Japanese singers | 21st-century Japanese women singers | 21st-century Japanese actresses

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